

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-28 are pending in the application, with 1 and 13 being the independent claims. New claims 26, 27, and 28 are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

The claims submitted herein take into consideration a newly discovered reference submitted concurrently herewith in an Information Disclosure Statement.

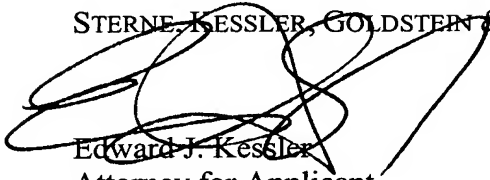
***Conclusion***

Applicant believes that the claims presented above clearly and patentably distinguish this invention over the references. Prompt and favorable consideration of the foregoing claims is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 2/14/05

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